Reatta

Division Newsletter

Buick Club of America

Volume 15 Issue 4 *winter 2011*

A QUICK NOTE FROM BOB POPYK

Director, Reatta Div.,BCA

I've had some windshield cards made up to promote our Reatta Division. So far the interest has been better than I expected. One person from the forum asked for 12, then joined himself. Many others asked for 3 or 4 just to keep in their car, so when they see a Reatta parked somewhere, they can put one underneath the windshield wiper. There is no charge for these cards. If you'd like a few, just send me a self-addressed legal-sized stamped envelope to PO Box 615, Brewerton, NY 13029 and tell me how many you want. If you are coming to Charlotte in June, I will have Reatta bumper stickers, more windshield cards and a few other Reatta things for those attending, so I hope you will be there.

I've noticed that the prices of the 1991 Reatta convertibles have really spiked recently, so hopefully it's a sign of things to come for the other years, both the coupes and convertibles. The Kelly Blue Book and Hemmings prices are still out of whack (find me a '91 convert for $5000), but I think they will make them higher in the next year or two. You've probably noticed that there are less and less Reattas on the road, so keeping yours in good shape makes it not only fun transportation but could eventually be a good investment. It is still a car that is "just a little ahead of its time". Remember, I'd like to hear some other ideas on what you would like to see as a member of the Reatta division. Just e-mail me at RPopyk@aol.com, and I'll share your thoughts with the other officers. Have a "Reatta-ful" day!

EDITORS NOTE; these cards are in beautiful red, white and black.

Hey, Nice Car!
You might be interested in joining the Reatta Division of the Buick Club of America!
The Reatta Division has grown in numbers with members in every state and around the world. We publish a quarterly newsletter which can be found on our web site, and will help you with unrivaled technical advice, encouragement and assistance. Maybe even a part or two!
Check us out at www.reatta.org
We'd like you to be a member!

REATTA FUN FACT FROM GEORGE MADSEN

Reattas were recalled for the following repairs:

1989-Left front brake hydraulic pipe may wear through by contact with cruise control servo bracket

Fix-Replace/reroute brake pipe

1990-Brake light may not light w ignition and P brake "on" and shifter in P or N

Fix-Replace PROM in the Body Control Module (BCM)

1990-Shift control cable may disengage from shift lever

Fix-Install cable retaining clip

1990-Air bag sensor may be incorrectly constructed/wired

Fix-Replace sensor

1990- Air bag components may have been damaged during assembly, could separate on deployment

Fix-Replace affected air bag module

PARTS FOR SALE

Reatta showroom sign. $600 OBO. Call Cecil @ 616-240-9036

Reatta parts----Large inventory. Reasonable prices. Contact
Jim Finn through e-mail: jfinn@cpinternet.com

Reatta parts----Parting over 50 cars. You name it, I should have it.
John @ 810-730-9230

For sale: We have headlamp assembly crank arms (in two models) with parts kits for all Reattas as well as our replication, in all colors, of the sun visor clips for the '90/'91 convertibles. More info hkbjr@yahoo.com or (310) 476-0191. Pictures on EBAY and www.Reattaowner.com. Buy Direct

Parting out a 1990 Maui Blue coupe. No headlight switch. Contact Al @ 810-744-2191 0r labrecque.al123@gmail.com

Original "Barney cranks" are still available. Steel replacement headlight bellcranks are $35 ea. to BCA members. Kits that include rollers & up-stop instructions are $40. Rebuilt Reatta headlight motors, $55 per side (exchange) and Rebuilt power antenna (w/ better than new flex cord, $60 ea (exchange). Price includes shipping on all items listed Call Barney @ 512-869-5114 for info or Reatta tech assistance.
Barney Eaton, 20111 Deerfield Dr, Georgetown, TX 78633

Complete NOS tail light assembly (still sealed in original factory wood shipping container). $2,000 plus shipping. If you want original, this is it. Contact Jim Anderson at; roadking9800@hotmail.com

Poly-carb vent window replacements. Both driver and passenger sides available w/instructions for each side. $100.00 each side. Call Bill Salisbury @ 810-655-6113 or email FTE@usol.com

Mr. Almquist's Reatta

This is a Reatta story that I thought would be of interest to you Reatta owners. I received a phone call looking for Reatta parts. After a few minutes of conversation, I learned the fellow on the other end was the retired Chairman, President, and CEO of Delco Electronics, Don Almquist He retired in 1993, when Delco became part of GM Hughes Corp.

Back in 1990, like other years, GM displayed the product line to the employees of the Kokomo Indiana Delco plant. There were all the GM products on display and the employees could also drive them.
On hand was Buicks Regional sales manager and he informed Mr. Almquist there was a car they wanted him to drive. It was a bright red Reatta convertible with saddle interior. Don gave the Reatta a try and reported that it was a nice car and it would be a fun personal vehicle. The sales manager suggested that Don hang on to the car for awhile and give it a longer test. After a couple of weeks Don call the SM and ask when they were going to pick up the Reatta, the SM told Don that Ed Mertz (Buick General Manager) wanted him to keep it indefinitely. Well Don still has the car today. No I don't know the details, but somehow it got titled in his name.

Now the rest of the story. Impressed with the quality of the Reatta and looking over the Reatta literature, Don liked the idea of the signed Craftsman log and contacted Jim Rucker the Craft Centre plant manager at that time. Don expressed his feeling for the car and said he would like to write a personal letter to each of the people that signed the Craftsman long, and thank them for their commitment and quality.
Mr. Rucker supplied Don with the name and home addresses of the six people and in addition, rounded up a red Reatta convertible and had the six stand behind it for a photo to send to Don.
I believe the people are, from left to right. Sherman Avery, Steve Walker, Jim Johnson, Andy Dahms, Mary Nelson, and Mark Zell.

Mr. Almquist is building a house in Georgia to be near his son and going from a 4 car to a 2 car garage. This means the Reatta must go. It now has just under 15,000 miles, does not have a CD or 16 way seat and is located in Noblesville, Indiana If you are interested, I can put you in touch with Don. The vin is 1G4EC33CXLB904186

Barney Eaton

GM POWER ANTENNA REPAIR

BY BARNEY EATON

Remove antenna from car..... after pulling aside the trunk trim, disconnect the 3 wire connector from the relay (attached to antenna tube) unplug the round black antenna coax lead connection. Remove screws holding antenna in place (some antenna have braided ground wire near top). On the outside remove the chrome ring, it should have 4 notches. You probably won't have the proper tool; try a channel lock or pliers with some protection on the jaws. It comes off counter-clockwise, looking down on it.

Remove the complete assembly from the car.... if the antenna is stuck in up position, you will need to be very careful and work it out flexing the antenna slightly or unscrew the black plastic part at the base of the mast. If the assembly is a virgin, it will have 3 eyelets in the black housing and another in the center of the hub. These must be removed (drill them out) avoid drilling the plastic oversize….then remove the five clips around the edge. Position the assembly with the antenna pointing left and the motor at the top. Remove the plastic cover. You should find that the off-white plastic line has broken. Look at the spool, there will be a broken end remaining in the groove, fish it out and at the end is a metal "J" hook, remove that part. To remove the broken mast part…slide the uppermost mast section out, clamp that section so that you can unscrew the tip (finial), I use two scraps of wood so not to damage that shaft (it must slide out of the other mast sections and if damaged it will not) Sometimes heat is necessary to get the tip to budge.

The Reatta antenna mast repair part is no longer available (#22072185). Another contributor suggested #22038195 but it is also recently discontinued, I have found them on Ebay. Now assuming you found a replacement repair part, after cleaning and lubricating the other mast sections, start the reassembly.

Install the mast into the main section by first unscrewing the white plug at the bottom. Install the bottom 2 mast sections (into the gold tinted assembly) then reinstall the white plug. Now install the new small mast section from the bottom, thru the white plug and thru the other mast sections.
Now pull the small mast out the top and extend the antenna completely. If you removed the black screw in plastic part at the top, reinstall it at this time. Install the chrome (some cases black) antenna tip (loosely tighten for now)

With the motor at the top in front of you on the bench, and the antenna extending to the left, plug the black stud into the rubber cushion and position the bottom end of the antenna into position on the motor housing. Remove the big reel from the motor housing and install the "J" hooked end of the antenna lead into the slot of the reel, lay the "J" hook down into the groove and turn the reel counter clockwise so that a few inches of the plastic line lays in the groove. Now install the reel back into the motor housing and position the plastic line so that it smoothly feeds into the bottom end of the antenna mast.

Before reassemble, check the gear on the spool and put a drop of oil on the motor bearings.... if you feel up to it, check the brushes and clean the communtator

Install the black motor housing cover. Check that it fits without binds and gaps. Install the spring clips and the unit is ready to test.

You can test the motor operation using a battery charger or some jumper wires from a 12v battery. To raise the antenna (+) goes to green wire and (-) goes to grey wire..... to lower the antenna (+) goes to white and (-) goes to green. If the antenna functions properly, install screws with nuts in the holes that had the eyelets. 10-32 work in all the holes except the one in the center of the spool and I use a 8-32 there.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

ANTENNA... continued from page 4

Optional repair for the gifted……. Since the original plastic line part is getting harder to find, you can make your own.

Option (1) Using 105 diameter Weed-eater line. You need a propane or similar torch. Heat the end of the mast top section and pull out the remaining piece of plastic. While still warm, push the weed eater line into the hole and hold until the plastic solidifies. Do the same on the "J" end.
The only semi-critical item is the length. After doing the top, install the mast into the antenna and with the mast fully extended, cut the reel end so the line wraps around the reel to about the 1 o'clock position.

Option (2) Using braided steel cable with plastic coating. You will need a torch that is capable of silver soldering. You need 3/32 wire with coating that brings it to 1/8. Strip one end and silver solder to the mast end. Do the same measurement as above. You can solder to the "J" end OR buy
1/8 brass tubing at the hobby shop and cut it to the same length as the original "J." The cable will slip inside. Now bend it to match the original. No soldering necessary, the sharp bend will lock the cable in place.

If you get it torn apart and can't get it back together, take $262.18 (2011 price) to you dealer and ask for a new antenna. You can also e-mail (Barney@texas.net) or call 512-869-5114 Barney Eaton and I will try and assist you. I can also repair your antenna or sell you one ready to install.

****

REATTA WEAR, A GREAT GIFT IDEA

The holidays are rapidly approaching. Anyone who wishes to give Reatta Wear as a Christmas gift should act now to insure delivery in time for Christmas. The R-Div has Reatta Wear in most sizes and colors. E-mail me at the address on the order form to check the availability of the items you want to purchase. If the items you want to purchase are in stock, I will make every effort to see that you receive them before Christmas. Your order received by December 12 should arrive before Christmas. Thank you and Merry Christmas.

Carole Madsen, Reatta Logo Wear Coordinator

****

REATTA BOOK FOR SALE

Just in time for Christmas, THE PERFECT GIFT for that special Reatta enthusiast. "The Complete History of Reatta", 60 pages, 98 pictures, and actual press releases…...most pictures have never been published before, even a 1992 Reatta prototype. Perfect for your coffee table. $25.00 + $5.00 for shipping. A limited number have been printed. Contact Duncan at Duncan.smith@juno.com, or phone 231-631-1075

Reatta Wear

Mail to: Carole Madsen
14560 S. Oakley Ave.
Orland Park, IL 60462
email: carolemadsen@att.net

1. Cap Sunburst Logo: Adjustable Strap
Colors–Burgundy, Red, Hunter Green, Black, White, and Tan **Price $19.00**

2. Cap Script Logo: Adjustable Strap
Colors--Burgundy, Red, Hunter Green, Black, White and Tan
Logo in Red, White, Black, and Tan
Price $15.00

3. Ladies Fashion Visor Script Logo:
Adjustable Strap
Colors–Aqua, Burgundy, Dandelion, Red, and White
Logo in Black, Red, White **Price $14.00**

4. Golf Shirt Sunburst Logo
Colors– Black, Burgundy, Green, Red, Royal Blue, and White
Sizes: M, L, XL, XXL **Price $29.00**

5. Golf Shirt Script Logo
Colors– Black, Burgundy, Green, Red, Royal Blue, and White
Logo Colors in Black, Red, Tan, and White
Sizes: M, L, XL, XXL **Price $26.00**

6. Safari Hat and Band:
Band Colors—Red, Black and Hunter Green
With Gold Script **Price $ 18.00**

7. T-Shirt:
Screen Printed White 50/50 Blend
Sizes: M, L, XL, **Price $15.00**
Size: XXL **Price $16.00**

8. T-Shirts with Pocket:
Sizes: L & XL **Price $17.00**
Size: XXL **Price $18.00**

9. Crew Neck Sweatshirt with Sunburst Logo
Colors–Black, Red, Forest Green, Maroon, and Grey **Price $26.00**

10. Crew Neck Sweatshirt with Script Logo
Colors–Black, Red, Forest Green, Maroon and Grey
Logo Colors in Black, Red, Tan, and White
Price $23.00

11. Reatta License Plates:
Black and Silver Lettering **Price $20.00**

Name_____ Email_____

Address_____ Phone #_____

City, St, Zip_____

Reatta Div#_____

Order must be accompanied by check or money order in US funds made payable to: "Reatta Division, BCA"

Item #	Qty	Size	Color	Logo/Script	Script/Color	Cost	Total

*Prices are good thru December 31, 2011

*Shipping Amounts 1 item $7.50 3 items $9.00
2 items $8.00 4 items $9.50

Subtotal_____

Shipping_____

TOTAL_____

CARS FOR SALE

1989 Buick Reatta, 134k miles. coupe, All power, Everything works, Paint is fair, Car in excellent condition. Has new brakes and rebuilt transmission. Asking $1,500. Call Brian @ 609-929-2448 (Brian) or carfinder@comcast.net

1988 White Reatta/maroon interior in perfect condition. Never driven in winter, always garaged and has 26,000 miles on it. $8000,00 or best offer. Call 616-847-1554

1990 convertible, white/white, burgundy interior. 34,000 miles. Pristine condition, smoke free and always garaged. Two sets of floor mats (one for show) and complete leather owners manual. All maintenance records + new battery, tires, & heavy duty headlight lifters. Appraised @ $16,995.00. Call Larry Brody @ 630-262-9849 0r email Lrrb@earthlink.net. Geneva, Il

1990 Reatta Coupe, red/tan w/ 27,150 miles. One owner. Stored winters. Beautiful condition. Cover included. $17,300.00. Call 574-262-9202

1990Reatta convertible, Burgandy/tan/tan. 43,000 miles, in immaculate condition. A southern car that has always been garaged & covered. Original floor mats, leather bound user manual w/ pen and tire gauge, plus trunk medical kit. **PRICE REDUCED**; $16,500 OBO. Call Vince @ 830-935-2421 or email @ chinapuzz@aol.com. Tx

For sale; 90 convertible, new top and paint. All options plus has supercharged engine & chrome wheels both from 93 Park Avenue. Price $7000.00 or make offer. Call Cecil @ 616-874-6889
0r 616– 240-9036 (cell)

FOR SALE: 1990 Reatta Convertible, new white exterior/ new blue vinyl top w/glass rear window,blue interior/w 16 way seat. 76,000 miles. New tires, battery, front struts, brake pads, AC evaperator, AC cold. Only $8,950. Call Dennis Paradoski @ 586-303-6459 St. Clair Shores, MI 48080 d-t-parado@sbcglobal.net

FOR SALE: 90 Reatta Convertible, Black/Burgandy/Burgandy, 16 way seats, 92K easy miles. High quality chrome off repaint & new hartz cloth top. Undercarriage very clean, absolutely NO rust. Wood grain dash trim w/ original available. Owner's portfolio & NOS floor mats included. This is a beautiful car to drive and show. Easy gold winner. Asking $11,250.00 OBRO. Car is in S. Carolina. Call Ed Farnell @ 803-360-6806 (Cell)

FOR SALE: 90 Reatta Convertible, Maui Blue/white top. Everything functions as it should. 126K miles, but drives like new. Undercarriage very clean, absolutely no rust. Has wood grain dash trim W/ original trim available. Aftermarket radio w/ CD player, but can install original radio if preferred. Owner's portfolio & NOS floormats included. This is a beautiful car to drive or show. Asking $7,200.00 OBRO. S. Carolina car. Call Ed Farnell @ 803-360-6806 (cell)

FOR SALE: 1990 Reatta convertible, maui blue, white top, blue interior. One owner (purchased May 11, 1990). 47,900 miles. All original. No accidents. No cracked glass. Always gagaged when not in use. Car is in excellent condition inside and out. Price; $9,000.00 For more information or to purchase, contact Nancy Purvis @ 913-390-6905 or email lpurlas66220@sbcglobal.net

FOR SALE: 1988 Reatta, red/tan. Last of the leather bolster models. Black BSM. No rust (one 6" dent in trunk, see last newsletter on page 4, "Back yard accident"). Trunk full of extra parts. Aking $3,000.00 OBO. Motivated seller. For more information and interesting facts, contact Fred Langille (BCA #43098, R-Div #889) @ 304-736—163 (after 6 PM, Mon-Sun.)
e-mail phredta11bl@copper.net

****

Note from ad department; From this newsletter on car ads will appear in two (2) consecutive issues and then will rotated out others can get their ads in. The exception to this will be if there are no new ads submitted. You can also put your ad on the Reatta buy/sell forum. Parts ads are exempt from this policy. Anyone that places an ad in this forum and untimately sales their car, please motify us so we can then clear that space for a fellow enthusiasts ad. Thank you

Reatta Division
Buick Club of America
Officers & Key Division Positions

DIRECTOR: Bob Popyk
PO Box 615
Brewerton, NY 13029
315-676-2355
Rpopyk@aol.com

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: Tom Selander
7024 Georgetown Ave.
Hudsonville, MI 49426
reattaman3@msn.com

SECRETARY/TREASURER: Ed Farnell
440 Langford Road
Blythewood SC 29016
803-754-6922
reattaclub@aol.com

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS:
Martel Gibson mgibson33@hotmail.com
Chuck Kerls booreatta@cox.net
Herb Morris reatta90@sbcglobal.net

NOMINATING COMMITTEE
Rich Mickle mobyrr@sbcglobal.net
Nancy Eaton reatta@texas.net
George Madsen georgemadsen@att.net

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: April Gill
7508 W Chadwick Road
Dewitt MI 48820
517-626-6622
wwdhms@aol.com

REATTA LOGO WEAR COORDINATOR: Carole Madsen
14560 South Oakley Avenue
Orland Park IL 60462
708-349-8878
carolemadsen@att.net

WEB SITE ADDRESS: http://www.reatta.org

WEB ROAD MASTER:
Nancy Taylor
ReattaWebmaster@hotmail.com

BCA TECHNICAL ADVISORS—1988-1991 REATTAS
Barney Eaton
20111 Deerfield Drive
Georgetown TX 78628
Barney@texas.net

Don Kinas
312 Plaza Lane
Plymouth, WI 53073
262-781-3913

REATTA DIVISION
Secretary/Treasurer
Ed Farnell
440 Langford Road
Blythewood, SC 29016

MEMBERSHIP & DIVISION INFORMATION

Reatta Division memberships are $10.00 per year. Membership is for a 12 month period.

Please note that a **pink highlighter mark** on the RDIV number on your mailing label means that your Reatta Division dues are either due or past due. In order to continue receiving the Reatta news letter, your RDIV membership status needs to be current.

Please makes checks payable to: **REATTA DIVISION, BCA**
Send all dues payments and address changes (include your RDIV # on your check) to:
SECRETARY/TREASURER, ED FARNELL, 440 LANGFORD RD, BLYTHEWOOD, SC 29016

NOTE: All Reatta Division members are required to be members of the national organization, Buick Club of America**,** of which we are an authorized division. Please note that a **blue highlighter** mark on your BCA number on your mailing label means that you are not a current member of the BCA. In order to continue receiving the Reatta Division newsletter, your BCA membership status needs to be current. The national organization can be contacted at: **BUICK CLUB OF AMERICA, PO BOX 360775, COLUMBUS, OH 43236, BY EMAIL AT: buickcluboffice@aol.com , phone 614-472-3939 or fax 614-472-3222.**

Please send all classified ads and newsletter submissions to:
NEWSLETTER EDITOR, APRIL GILL, 7508 W CHADWICK RD, DEWITT,MI 48820 or email wwdhms@aol.com